

## REGION 8 WEEKLY REPORT – February 15, 2018

### *Hot Issues*

**Wyoming Mining Association.** The RA attended Wyoming Mining Association's annual meeting in Cheyenne this past week. He held roundtable discussions with its Regulatory Committee, the Uranium Committee, and the Board of Directors. The key issues they addressed were:

1. A rule that was proposed January, 2017 that addressed requirements surrounding in-situ uranium recovery. Among other things the proposed rule would address groundwater protection and monitoring requirements. The rule is opposed by the NRC and Senator Barrasso has sent a letter requesting that the agency withdraw the rule. The Mining Association reasserted their support of the Senator's request and asked that we also reexamine the MOU we have with the NRC that provides that the EPA's role in uranium mining regulation is that of establishing standards and not prescribing specific controls. The RA told them that the review of the proposal was underway and that we would examine discussing with the NRC the existing MOU to make it more clear and binding.
2. Air emission standards for mill tailings. A rule was finalized in January, 2017 that established air emissions standards for uranium byproduct material. The uranium industry opposes these rules because it is very difficult to demonstrate compliance and they have concerns with the process for justifying the rule. They asked that we consider initiating a rulemaking to repeal this rule. They had considered going through the Congressional Review Act but were not successful.
3. They are very concerned about NEPA and its implementation. The RA discussed the Region 8 review of NEPA that is currently underway.

**U.S. Bureau of Land Management may decide to shut in the only well providing drinking water during winter months to Park Center Water District (1300 service connections) in Canon City, CO.** BLM provides drinking water to Park Center via this well, which is the sole supply during winter months, and BLM is required to provide flow to Fourmile Creek from the well due to water law. If treatment is required to meet NPDES permit limits to discharge to Fourmile Creek, BLM has indicated they will shut in the well. We are continuing to work with BLM on solutions.

**Region 8, the State of South Dakota, and Agnico Eagle Mines, Ltd. Finalized a Bona Fide Prospective Purchaser Agreement on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Work at the Gilt Edge Mine Site near Lead, South Dakota.** On February 12, 2018, EPA, the State of South Dakota, and Agnico Eagle Mines, Ltd. finalized an agreement for certain remedial investigation work at the Gilt Edge Mine Site (Site). Pursuant to the agreement, Agnico will conduct studies to help define the nature and extent of contamination within groundwater at the Site, and pay certain oversight costs. Agnico will use the information gathered during remedial investigation work to study whether potential re-mining of the Site is feasible and/or economical.

R8 Refers an Enforcement Case to DOJ for **Enforcement/Investigatory / Ex. 7(a)**

**Enforcement/Investigatory / Ex. 7(a)**

*Upcoming Decisions/Events - None*